

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11965 161748Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 SSO-00 ISO-00 /026 W
-----103060 161805Z /72 R

O 161736Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7338
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 11965

LONDON FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, PDEV, EAID, EFIN, CG, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIUM NOT TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON
REFORMS

REF: A) PARIS 19268, B) SECTO 07011, C) BRUSSELS 11438,
C) STATE 145956

1. FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET ANDRE
ONKELINX TELEPHONED AFTERNOON JUNE 16 TO INFORM US THAT
INSTRUCTIONS HAVE JUST GONE OUT TO THE BELGIAN EMBASSY
IN PARIS TO INFORM THE FRENCH, AS CONVENER OF THE PARIS-
FIVE WORKING GROUP, THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT MAKE A SEPARATE
DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS. ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIUM
FROM THE BEGINNING HAD INSISTED THAT THE DEMARCHE BE JOINT
(REFS C AND D) AND HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THAT
POSITION.

2. ONKELINX SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A COMMON
TEXT, EACH AMBASSADOR WOULD BE MAKING DIFFERENT
COMMENTS, SO THERE WOULD BE NO ASSURANCE THAT MOBUTU
SECRET

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WOULD GET THE SAME MESSAGE FROM EACH COUNTRY. HE SAID
THAT SEPARATE DEMARCHES, MOVEOVER, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE
MOBUTU TO BE LECTURED TO FIVE DIFFERENT TIMES, WOULD
"UPSET HIM TOO MUCH."

3. COMMENT: BELGIANS, WHO HAVE REMINDED US THAT A JOINT
DEMARCHE SEEMED TO BE ON THE TRACKS LAST WEEKEND BEFORE

BEING DERAILED BY OUR LAST-MINUTE ADDITION ON MILITARY REFORM, APPEAR TO BE DISPLEASED THAT THE DECISION ON SEPARATE DEMARCHES WAS MADE WITHOUT THE BELGIANS. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY THINK THAT MOBUTU, IF HE BLOWS-UP OVER JOINT WESTERN PRESSURE ABOUT REFORMS, MIGHT WELL DIRECT HIS IRE AT THE BELGIANS, WHO PERIODICALLY FEEL MOBUTU'S WRATH BECAUSE OF THE DELICATE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ITS FORMER COLONY. DETARR

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